

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing secure, indirect electronic commerce transactions between a user and multiple merchants comprising:

establishing a secure communication link between at least one client computer system and a vendor computer system;

transmitting transaction information to said client computer system from said vendor computer system enabling a user at said client computer system to select ~~and~~ for purchase, via said vendor computer system, items listed in a plurality of merchant computer systems without said user having direct access to said merchant computer systems;

receiving at said vendor computer system a first request from a client computer system concerning an item listed on a first of said merchant computer systems;

modifying at said vendor computer system said first request from said client computer system to said vendor computer system into a modified request from said vendor computer system to said merchant computer system;

sending said modified request from said vendor computer system to said merchant computer system;

receiving at said vendor computer system from said first merchant computer system a first response to said modified request, said first response comprising a

merchant web page comprising one or more hyper-text links to said merchant computer system;

modifying said first response from said merchant computer system to said vendor computer system at said vendor computer system into a modified response from said vendor computer system to said client computer system;

wherein said modifying said first response into said modified response comprises:

modifying said one or more hyper-text links in said first response to redirect said one or more hyper-text links from said merchant computer system to said vendor computer system; and

~~reframing~~ reissuing at said vendor computer system said merchant web page as a web page of said vendor computer system; and

wherein said transmitting said transaction information comprises transmitting said web page of said vendor computer system to said client computer system.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said transmitting step further comprises:

generating a purchase order for said item after said user's selection of said item for purchase via said vendor computer system.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising: obtaining payment from said user; and

transmitting payment to to said first merchant on behalf of said user.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said payment is obtained by an operator of said vendor computer system.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of transmitting transaction information further comprises:

displaying one or more icons corresponding to said plurality of merchants at said client computer for user selection;

providing a listing of said items listed in said merchant computer system to said user at said client system computer via said vendor computer system, in response to said user selection of at least one of said one or more icons.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for performing secure, indirect electronic commerce between a user and multiple merchants comprising:

establishing a secure communication link between a client computer system and a vendor computer system; ~~and~~

transmitting transaction information to said client computer system from said vendor computer system enabling a user at said client computer system to obtain, via said vendor computer system, items listed in a plurality of merchant computer systems by one or more merchants without said user having direct access to said merchant computer systems;

monitoring at said vendor computer system requests ~~for information~~ from said client computer system for information regarding at least one of said listed items;

~~at said vendor computer system to request~~ requesting by said vendor computer system transaction information regarding said at least one of said listed items from at least one of said merchant computer systems;

modifying at said vendor computer system responses a response regarding said at least one of said listed items received by said vendor computer system from said at least one of said ~~plurality of~~ merchant computer systems ~~to route at least a portion of said information exchange through said vendor computer system;~~

wherein said modifying ~~responses~~ said response comprises:

modifying merchant content from said at least one of said plurality of merchant computer systems to redirect one or more hyper-text elements from said at least one of said merchant computer systems to said vendor computer system;
and

~~reframing~~ reissuing by said vendor computer system said modified merchant content as a web page of said vendor computer system; and
~~wherein said transmitting transaction information comprises~~ transmitting said web page of said vendor computer system to said client computer for display to said user.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising: generating a purchase order for said at least one of said listed items.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein ~~a vendor of~~ said vendor computer system forwards ~~payments~~ payment to said ~~one or more merchants at least one of said merchant computer systems~~ for said at least one of said listed ~~the~~ supplied items on behalf of said user.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein said user makes payment to said vendor for said ~~supplied~~ at least one of said listed items.

12-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising:

displaying a merchant icon associated with at least one of said one or more
merchants at said client computer system for selection by said user; and

in response to said selection by said user of said merchant icon, providing a list of
items from at least one of said plurality of merchant computer systems to said user at said
client computer system via said vendor computer system.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of modifying responses
occurs automatically.

16. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said step of modifying responses
occurs automatically.

17. (Currently Amended) A vendor computer system having computer readable
program code embodied therein for implementing a vendor server to enable secure,
indirect electronic commerce between a user at a client computer system and one or more
merchant servers, said program code configured to perform at least the steps of:

establishing a secure communication link between a client computer system and a
vendor server;

obtaining by said vendor computer system merchant content for items listed for
sale from a merchant server;

modifying at said vendor computer system hyper-text links in said merchant
content to redirect said hyper-text links from said merchant server to said vendor server;

~~reframing~~ reissuing at said vendor computer system said merchant content as a
web page of said vendor server; and

transmitting said web page of said vendor server with said modified hyper-text links to said client computer system for presentation to said user.

18. (Currently Amended) The vendor computer system of claim 17, wherein said step of obtaining said merchant content comprises:

receiving at said vendor server a user request from said client computer system;
modifying at said vendor server said user request into a vendor request to said merchant server;

transmitting said vendor request from said vendor server to said merchant server;
and

receiving at said vendor server from said merchant server a response comprising said merchant content.

19. (Currently Amended) The vendor computer system of claim 18, wherein said step of receiving said user request at said vendor server comprises receiving information for identifying said merchant server from a plurality of possible merchant servers.

20. (Previously Presented) The vendor computer system of claim 18, wherein said user request is an order request, and said step of modifying said user request into a vendor request to said merchant server comprises inserting ~~user order~~ vendor information into said order request.

21. (Original) The vendor computer system of claim 18, wherein said user request is one of:

a search request;

an order request; and

a selection request.

22 - 37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) A secure electronic commerce system, comprising:
means for establishing a secure communication link between a client computer
system and a vendor server;

means for obtaining merchant content from a merchant server;

means for facilitating the purchase by a user at said client computer system of
items from said merchant server comprising:

means at said vendor server for modifying hyperlinks in said merchant
content to redirect said hyperlinks from said merchant server to said vendor
server; and

means for ~~reframing~~ reissuing by said vendor server of said merchant
content as a web page of said vendor server; and

means for transmitting said web page of said vendor server to said client computer
system for presentation to said user.